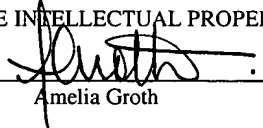


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 18, 2002

QUINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, P.C.

By


Amelia Groth


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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Attorney Docket No. 36-002200US

Client Docket No. P0037US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Robert Charles Downs

Application No.: 09/810,020

Filed: March 16, 2001

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PERFORMING MULTIPLE PROCESSING
STEPS ON A SAMPLE IN A SINGLE
VESSEL**

Examiner: Lilling, Herbert J.

Art Unit: 1651

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION
REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action (hereinafter, "Action")
mailed September 18, 2002, which specifies a shortened statutory period for reply of three
months.

The following documents are submitted herewith:

- 1) A transmittal sheet; and
- 2) A receipt indication postcard.

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 32-58, without prejudice to subsequent renewal.

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Action restricts claims 1-58 of the subject application into two groups, namely, Group I (claims 1-31) and Group II (claims 32-58). Each group includes various additional species election requirements.

Applicant elects, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I (claims 1-31). For initial examination, Applicant elects species alleged with respect to Group I as follows:

Species Indicia:

- A.a. - Centrifugation;
- B.bb. - Isolating recombinant proteins;
- B.bb.bba. - Crystallizing the isolated sample;
- B.bb.bba.bbba.- Analyzing by x-ray crystallography;
- C.ii. - Attaching a robotic gripper apparatus;
- D.x. - Prokaryotic cells;
- D.x.xb. - Gene variant in a vector; and
- E.2. - Anaerobic fermentation.

For the Examiner's convenience the species indicia correspond to those utilized in the Action. Claims reading on these elected species are at least 1, 2, 4-5, 7, 12, 14-20, 23-26, and 28.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this response to the restriction requirement is complete and responsive, and that the claims are in a condition for early consideration on the merits. In the event that a telephonic interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher C. Sappenfield
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